Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06543 211624Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 211506Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4446 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY JIDDA

SECRET BEIRUT 6543

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, US, JO

SUBJECT: SECDEF STATEMENT RE ARAB OIL

- 1. THIS MORNING I RETURNED NEWLY ARRIVED JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL. CONVERSATION EXTREMELY FRIENDLY IN ALL BUT ONE RESPECT.
- 2. LATTER WAS INQUIRY RE SECDEF RECENT STATEMENT AND QUESTION AS TO WHO SPEAKS FOR USG ON FOREIGN POLICY. I REITERATED USUAL EXPLANATION, BUT JORDANIAN SAID THIS WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH AND DID WE REALIZE THE INCALCULABLE HARM OUR SECDEF HAD DONE TO U.S. POSITION IN ARAB WORLD AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE HAD CUT GROUND AWAY FROM OUR BEST FRIENDS IN THIS AREA. JORDANIAN ASKED IF I COULD NOT GET SOME AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR FROM THE WHITE HOUSE THAT OUR FRIENDS COULD USE IN AN EFFORT TO COUNTERACT THE TREMENDOUS BENEFIT TO COMMUNISTS AND OTHER RADICALS WERE REAPING FROM SECDEF'S STATEMENT. SAID THAT FOR SECDEF TO EXPRESS THESE VIEWS WAS PARTICULARLY INAUSPICIOUS JUST WHEN SAUDIS, EGYPTIANS AND JORDANIANS ALONG WITH THE SYRIANS, WERE TRYING TO CHECK THE RADICALS.
- 3. IN CONCLUDING, JORDANIAN SAID HE WAS REFLECTING NOT ONLY THE VIEWS OF "MODERATE" AMBASSADORS IN BEIRUT, BUT ALSO PRESIDENT FRANGIE, WHO POINTEDLY ASKED HIM YESTERDAY IF JORDAN, FOLLOWING ITS KING'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES COULD EXPLAIN SECDEF'S OBJECTIVES AND MOTIVATION.

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